

I think it is completely unreasonable for the NAB (NAB's petition 04-160) to try to stop new technology from competing with local AM and FM radio. In Chicago, there is NOTHING left on the radio. As a former devotee of several AM and FM stations, I found my favorite music stations turning to commercials, rap and Spanish while the AM stations are consistently losing talent and having nothing new to say.

I not only have XM radio in my car, but I also have TWO in my home. There are over 150 stations for me to choose from, most commercial free! The 24 hour traffic and weather stations are fabulous. Before XM, I would have to listen to 10-25 minutes of talk radio before getting an unclear and abbreviated traffic report. Most of the time they would not even mention the horrid traffic jam I was sitting in! And, if it was a weekend or not "rush hour" you could forget the report entirely! As for weather, there is no good place to get a current forecast or anything other than the current temperature while in the car. XM provides weather coverage comparable to what our scanner picks up from the NWS! Several severe storms have passed through the area recently and XM has been there to report the situation IN DETAIL. As for traffic, CONSTANT COMPREHENSIVE traffic reports require I only listen for a few minutes to get all of the information I need. If they miss something, there is an 800# to call and say "Hey, I'm sitting in traffic on I-88. What's the deal?" and they will *find out* and report it the next time around! You don't get much more reliable than that. They will tell you exactly which intersections/exits are affected and what lanes are closed. They will tell how long the backup is, and if police are on the scene, etc. That way I can decide if I need to get off the highway long before I get to the exit!

How is this not a benefit to all of the commuters out there who can find out in time it takes them to drive out of their neighborhood which routes to take, which to avoid, and whether or not to take their umbrella???

Since when is competition ever a bad thing? If the broadcast stations would get their act together and offer some decent programming, I might not be so willing to spend \$16 a month for XM radio for my house and car just to have something to listen to. Rather than petition, they need to COMPETE. I still own AM/FM radios and will gladly turn them on if there is something worth listening to! XM has been the best thing to happen to radio since it's invention. It is exactly what the radio want? America has survived broadcast TV, cable TV, Satellite TV, high speed internet, Voice over IP telephony, cellular phones, wireless internet, etc. etc. etc. I think we can handle a little Satellite Radio reporting our local traffic and weather - which I remind you is a service THAT I PAY FOR! Come on, tell these guys to quit whining and focus on something important.

Sincerely,
Erin Erickson